

Contribution to the knowledge and distribution  
of *Mitra goreensis* Melvill, 1925.

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MOTS-CLEFS : Gastropoda, Mitridae, *goreensis*, Cape Verde, São Tomé.

PALABRAS CLAVE : Gasterópodo, Mitridae, *goreensis*, Cabo Verde, São Tomé.

ABSTRACT. The recollection of two specimens of *Mitra goreensis* Melvill, 1925 in Cape Verde islands and São Tomé Island is reported. This taxon is considered to be a valid species. The new localities mentioned extend its range as far South as the Gulf of Guinea.

RESUMEN. Se cita la recolección de dos ejemplares de *Mitra goreensis* Melvill, 1925, uno en las islas de Cabo Verde y otro en la de São Tomé. Se considera que este taxon representa a una especie válida con una distribución ampliada hacia el Sur hasta el Golfo de Guinea.

#### INTRODUCTION.

*Mitra goreensis* Melvill, 1925 is a very uncommon species. Its original description taken from MELVILL (1925) is as follows :

Shell small, polished, chestnut-coloured, acuminate fusiform, whorls eight, including the two apical, pale brown, vitreous, smooth, the third and fourth are closely spirally cancellate, the remainder very finely and microscopically transversely lined, rather deeply impressed suturally, the body-whorl, above the periphery, is banded with a darker shade of brown, towards the base conspicuously sulcate, aperture narrow, within dull grey, outer lip very slightly effuse, columella brown, three-plaited. Long..12 Lat.4 mm. Habitat: Gorée I., Senegal, W.Africa.

As referred in the original description, the type locality is Gorée, Senegal, West Africa. After this,

only a few short citations are found in literature. CERNOHORSKY (1976) gave a photograph of the holotype (fig.1A) and stated that this species could be a coloured variant of *Mitra cornicula* (Linnaeus, 1758). HILL (1978) illustrated a shell from 100 m depth off Abidjan, Ivory Coast and this was the first mention of a station south of the type locality. KAICHER's card n°1472 (not dated) shows a picture of a *Mitra goreensis* with a short description; however, the shell looks the same as the one illustrated by HILL and only a small difference in size: maximum size in HILL's shell is 14 mm and KAICHER's shell has a maximum of 13 mm. MORAN et al.(1988) present a study of the genus *Mitra* in the Cape Verde islands, but do not mention the presence of *M. goreensis*.

**PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS.**

In November 1986, one of us (Fernandes) collected a dead specimen of a miter easily identified as *Mitra goreensis* from Praia, São Tomé in 15 m. of depth. Its size is 17,9 mm by 6,9 mm with characteristics similar to those of the type (fig.1B)

In May 1988, in a dredge net from 20-22 m of depth, off Mindelo, San Vicente Isl., Cape Verde Archipelago, the authors found another specimen of 12,7 mm by 4,6 mm (fig.1C), identified as the same species. Both shells show a similar aspect, the same typical colour in two portions of the last whorl, the same spiral striae, etc.

**DISCUSSION.**

Our shells both fit the original description as well as the type specimen. The close similarity of specimens from such separated localities allow us to assure that *Mitra goreensis* is a valid species and not an atypical colour variant of *Mitra cornicula* as stated by CERNOHORSKY (1976). The latter species has no spiral striae, its colour is uniform and it is wider in shape. The same differences apply to the

species *Mitra nigra* (Gmelin, 1791), very common in the Cape Verde Islands and with which there is no possible confusion.

The mention of these new localities extends the known range of this valid species South to São Tomé Island in the Guinea Gulf and confirms the presence of this species in the Cape Verde islands (fig.2).

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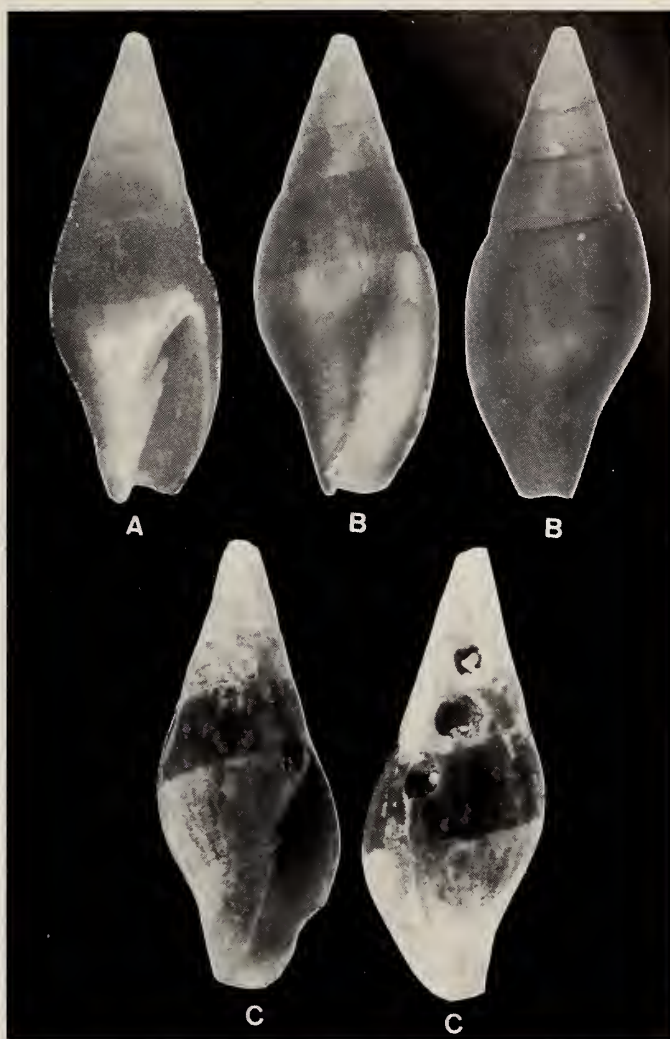


Figure 1. *Mitra goreensis* Melvill, 1925.

A: holotype; size 13,2 mm from Gorée I., Senegal (CERNOHORSKY, 1976).

B: specimen from São Tomé ; size 17,9 mm.

C: specimen from San Vicente (Cape Verde I.); size 12,7 mm.



Figure 2. Distribution of *Mitra goreensis*.

● type locality.

★ record of Hill (1978)

⊛ records in the present work.